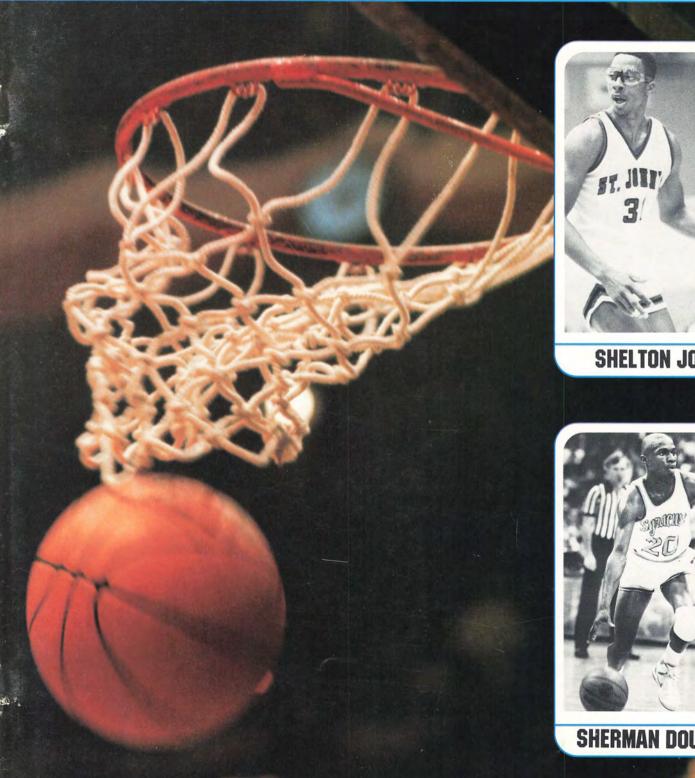
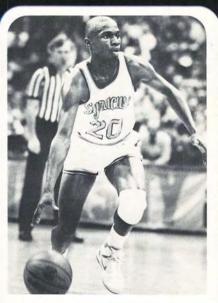
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# NCAA BASKETBALL





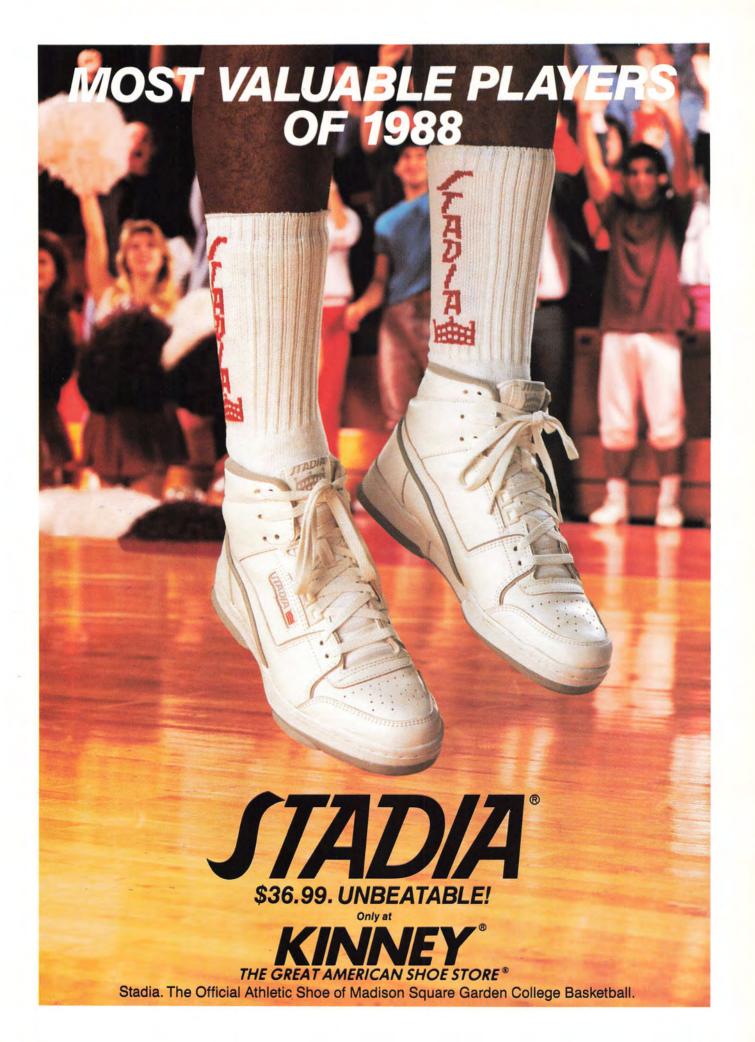
**SHELTON JONES** 



SHERMAN DOUGLAS

ST. JOHN'S VS. SYRACUSE **FEBRUARY 6, 1988** 





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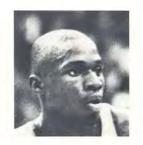
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#### IN THIS EDITION...



St. John's is alive and well behind the play of veteran Shelton Jones.

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Rosters Scoring								



# JONES HAS REDMEN ON THEIR TOES

#### **SHELTON JONES**

ver since BIG EAST basketball began in 1979, the St. John's basketball program has benefited from the presence of a succession of superstars. They would begin their careers as promising freshmen, then gradually work their way up to team leaders in their senior year.

This process first began with David Russell handing over the leadership role to Chris Mullin in 1982. After Mullin's departure, Walter Berry became the man coach Lou Carnesecca would depend on in the clutch. Mark Jackson picked up the slack when Berry moved on to the NBA, and this season, Shelton Jones has become the person that has followed in the footsteps of those past superstars.

Jones has adapted to this new role in a fine manner. He has led the Redmen in scoring and rebounding as well as minutes played and blocked shots all season. He became the 29th player at St. John's to reach the 1,000 career point mark in a game

against Villanova on January 4th. And just as Russell, Mullin, Berry and Jackson did during their careers, Jones was able to capture MVP honors in both the Joe Lapchick Tournament, and the ECAC Holiday Festival.

"Shelton has given us the type of leadership that we really needed," explained coach Carnesecca. "He has successfully assumed the position of leader both on and off the court that we hoped he would become."

Through the first 13 games of the season, Shelton had scored in double figures in every contest and had hit the 20 point mark six times, equaling a career high by totaling 25 points against Loyola Marymount in the Lapchick Tournament.

In a game against Seton Hall on January 16th, Shelton guided the Redmen to a 71-70 come from behind victory by scoring 21 points and grabbing six rebounds in 40 minutes. When the Pirates staged a late rally, it was Shelton who constantly turned back their attempts to gain the lead by hitting on one clutch shot after another.

"In that game," Carnesecca said,
"Shelton did what a superstar does
in a tight game: he wanted the
ball. He had the confidence in
himself to take control of the
game, and that is something we
will need from him in every game."

In addition to his success as a scorer this year, Shelton has also done an excellent job rebounding. As of January 20th, he was grabbing an average of 9.1 rebounds per contest and had reached double figures in six games. He grabbed a career high 16 rebounds vs. Loyola Marymount and had back to back 14 rebound contests vs. UCLA and Niagara in December.

Although he was a tremendous athlete at Amityville High School on Long Island, St. John's did not have to battle that much with other schools for his talent as he signed with the Redmen in November of 1983. With the important decision of what college to attend taken care of early, Shelton had the chance to concentrate on just basketball his senior year, and he ended up being named Player of the Year in New

York State and was selected to the prestigious McDonald's All-America team.

Besides basketball, however, he excelled in track and field in high school. He was named Suffolk County field athlete of the year in 1984 and won the county high jump title with a personal best of 6'7".

In his freshman year (1984-85) Shelton appeared in 32 games but logged only 317 minutes in a line-up that included Walter Berry, Chris Mullin, and Mark Jackson. While his playing time was limited, he had the thrill of playing for a team that advanced to the NCAA Final Four and was ranked number one in the nation for a month.

By his sophomore year, however, he had cracked the starting line-up. He appeared in 36 games and averaged 8.5 points and 5.7 rebounds in a lineup that included Walter Berry, Mark Jackson, and Willie Glass. That team posted a 31-5 record, defeated Syracuse in an exciting BIG EAST championship game, 70-69, but was eliminated in the second round of the NCAA playoffs.

In his junior year, with Berry gone, he had more responsibility to shoulder, and he responded by placing third on the team in scoring with a 14.6 average and was tops in reboudning at 7.8. In December of that year, he poured in 25 points to help St. John's hold off Seton Hall, 72-69. Two days later, his 21 point, 11 rebound effort powered the Redmen to a 70-63 triumph over UCLA at Madison Square Garden. Those two outstanding performances earned him BIG EAST Player of the Week honors. Later in the year, a 23 point game would help SJU upset Pittsburgh at Fitzgerald Field House.

When the 1986-87 season ended with a loss to DePaul in the NCAA tournament, it marked the end of the careers of Mark Jackson and Willie Glass. Going into next season, Shelton would be the only regular remaining from the Final Four and BIG EAST Championship past. He would be expected to carry the load now, be the one to come up with the big play when it was needed. And from what has happened this season, it appears that Shelton has successfully taken over as Chief of the Redmen.



SHERMAN DOUGLAS



**MICHAEL PORTER** 

# ST. JOHN'S — SYRACUSE: THIS IS SERIOUS!

hey'll have the whole joint sold out, over 19,000 packed into the Garden for one game, St. John's against Syracuse.

And people will still tell you that college basketball isn't healthy in New York City. You only have to look around to see how poor those medical reports are.

Single games on the Garden card are somewhat unusual as the Garden, when it first hosted the college game back there in 1934 went with doubleheaders, two games for the price of one. Over the years this was a staple of New York sports, a series of doubleheaders at 49th and 8th, and for the past twenty years at 33rd and 7th.

The doubleheader is still a feature of the Garden schedule but, a few times there in the better days of yore, there were single games.

The NYU-Notre Dame annual battle was one of these. Now, in December of 1934, the Violets and the Irish met for the first time at the Garden but they did so after St. John's and Westminster opened things up. As the years went by the

NYU-Notre Dame game highlighted the Garden card of some 29 or 30 doubleheaders each season but there was always a first game. Until the 1948-49 season when the game stood alone and still packed the house. The NYU freshman team — remember freshman teams? — would play the opening game to the early crowd.

The closeout game each season was always NYU-CCNY, a local vendetta of tong war proportions, and this was paired with St. John's against St. Francis. Again, in the late 1940's, the Garden made this one a single game and no one was disappointed, unless it was NYU or City fans whose team lost.

This was the day of one of the greatest cheers of all time, the fabled "Allegarooooo" of CCNY, calculated to strike fear into the hearts of all opposition. It was also the day of singing "Pallisades" for NYU at the half, followed by "Lavendar, My Lavendar" for CCNY, sung by Joe Borden, if memory serves, accompanied by Gladys Gooding at the organ. You remember Gladys . . . she is the answer to the trivia question of

(Continued on page 4)





Syracuse Coach Jim Boeheim discusses strategy with center Rony Seikaly (above). At right, Derrick Coleman shows the form which has made him one of the Big East's most talked about forwards.

#### BOEHEIM'S STRATEGY PAYS OFF FOR ORANGE

By Bill Strickland

os Angeles, California? Temple City, California? Washington, D.C.? Athens, Greece? They are coming from far and wide to play basketball for Jim Boeheim's Orangemen. This year's roster of scholarship players represent five different states, the District of Columbia and yes, Athens, Greece (by way of Lebanon). Where as once the Orange roster was filled with New Yorkers, including many from the city (as recently as 1985-86, you had Brooklyn's Dwayne Washington and Wendell Alexis, and Raf Addison from across the way in Jersey City), this year the closest you come to an N.Y.C. player is Long Island's Derek Brower, who hails from North Babylon. Last year was the first time ever that less than half the roster was from the state of New York. Don't look for much of a change next year. The once parochial Syracuse basketball program has gone national.

This year's Syracuse recruiting class has been rated the best in the country, by high school basketball guru Bob Gibbons. The prize is Carlisle, Pa.'s Billy Owens, considered one of the top two players in the country. Boeheim says that

the 6'8 Owens, brother of SU tailback Michael Owens, is the best player he has ever signed. In addition to Owens, the Carrier Dome will be home for the next four years to top 25 recruit David Johnson, a 6'5, swingman from Morgan City, Louisiana and two more Californians, 6'4 guard Mike Hopkins of Santa Ana and 6'10 center Richard Manning of Sacramento. The New York contingent was represented by Tony Scott, a 6'8 forward from Rochester and Dave Siock, a 6'10 center from Vestal.

So your 1988-89 Syracuse roster will include *five* players from California, one each from D.C., Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and three from New York.

How is it that Syracuse, a school located in an area with a nasty meteorological reputation, has been able to attract five Californians in three years? When, in the previous 83 year history of Syracuse basketball the number of Californians could be counted without using any toes. Or any fingers. Or any other part of the anatomy. As in zero. None.

There are a number of factors that have contributed to this.

(Continued on page 28)

#### ST. JOHN'S

(Continued from page 3)

who played for the Knicks, the Rangers and the Dodgers over Brooklyn. Later she was succeeded by Jane Jarvis who had already established a solid reputation as one of the better lady musicians

St. John's and Syracuse are the epic type of opponents who fill the bill for a single, regular season game at the Garden. The series goes back to the 1930-31 season when St. John's legendary "Wonder Five" took the measure of Syracuse, 25-16, AT Syracuse. Over the years, Syracuse earned itself quite a reputation as the "UP THERE" team of eastern collegiate circles. Beating Syracuse "there" was, as still is, a victory of Lord Nelson proportions.

And big crowds go with these games. In 1983, 1985 and again in 1986 the Redmen and the Orange played before crowds which exceeded 32,000, a mark of 32,485 in 1985 being the largest crowd to ever witness a game on a college campus. For the past seven years Syracuse-St. John's has pulled in close to 30,000 a game.

In the 1984-85 season the Redmen moved the Syracuse game from Alumni Hall to the Garden and with people hanging off the ceiling while pigeons backed into their faces, St. John's won, 82-80, in overtime. That sets the tone and pace of this one and fans have never been known to ask for their money back.

The Garden also takes a deserved place as a site for Syracuse meeting St. John's. In the 46 games played, with St. John's leading 26-20, the games were played at the Orange's campus home in the early 1930's, then to the Onendaga County Memorial in downtown Syracuse, a locale dear to the hearts of the New York Knicks in the 1940's and 1950's, to the dragon's den called Manley Fieldhouse, to Alumni Hall on St. John's campus in Queens, to the vast Carrier Dome and to the Garden, both old and new.

But it makes no difference where you stage it, a St. John's-Syracuse game will be a doozer and will bring out the crowds, even if you put on in the parking lot and do not move the cars.



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## FORDHAM'S THREE Ps: PARROTTA, PATERNO, PEDRO

By BRIAN HEFFRON

ou can't blame Joe Paterno, Tom Parrotta or Greg Pedro for any initial reluctance to accept the reins of leadership.

"I think it's a totally different atmosphere on the team," claims
Paterno. "The first two years I was here we really didn't work all that hard, and I don't think the guys really gave a hundred percent every time we went out on the floor."

Like an oprhan shuttled from foster home to foster home, desperately wanting to stay with one family and get on with life, the Fordham basketball program lacked continuity in the past two seasons. After guiding the Rams to five consecutive NIT appearances, Tom Penders, in his final season at Fordham, watched as the 1985-86 squad struggled to a 13-17 mark. Enter interim coach Bob Quinn; exit with a 14-16 record.

When he moved to the Bronx, from Buffalo, Nick Macarchuk brought several vitals to the Fordham basketball office: a couple pictures of past teams, a few plaques and awards, his two assistant coaches from Canisius, Dave Spiller and Stan Van Gundy, and certain ideas of a disciplined basketball program.

The pictures and awards hung well in the coach's office. The assistants seemed easily acclimated with the Rose Hill environment, and went about their new task of reviving a gasping team. But the theory went a little longer before receiving its welcome.

Following a rigorous pre-seasor practice schedule the straight shooting head coach who wasn't going to pull any verbal punches, looked for his leaders and he wasn't disappointed when he found the three P's — Paterno, Parrotta and Pedro.



#### **JOE PARROTTA**

Though it was merely a title last year, for the second consecutive season, Parrotta and Pedro were elected co-captains by their teammates. And though he doesn't wear the proverbial C on his uniform, Paterno is the unofficial tri-captain, hitting\*the clutch shot come crunch time and helping to set example during the tough practices.

Tension filled much of the Rose Hill Gym with the Rams down by a basket to cross-Bronx rival Manhattan College. The scoreboard read 59-58 with four seconds left during the final timeout. Standing at half-court, Mark Taylor inbounds the ball to Joe Paterno. Driving to the basket he lets an eight foot jump shot fly to the basket. It bounces off the rim as the clock reads :01. But the 6'5" forward is fouled by Manhattan freshman Greg Rock.

With most of the Gym in silence and the Manhattan section making enough noise to distract even the steadiest free throw shooter, Paterno steps to the line and sinks the first shot, forcing a tie; at least. With tunnel vision focused and the ball in hand, he releases and watches as the swish of the net signals a 60-59 win for the Rams.

Paterno hails from a large family and an excellent high school basketball program. Two factors which undoubtedly helped ease the adjustment to the college level. And there is no question as to what level he played upon during his freshman campaign, earning Metro Atlantic Conference and MET area Rookie-of-the-Year, while averaging 12.4 points and 4.4 rebounds a game.

Though his production dropped off slightly last season, Paterno is

having his most productive season yet. Despite making the move from small forward to off guard and back again to forward, he has consistently shot the ball with accuracy, averaging 14.3 ppg and shooting 53% from the field.

According to Paterno, one of the factors in the revitalization is Nick Macarchuk. "I think this year the coach is getting the most out of all

of his players."

The other factor in Joe Paterno's climb to the top of his game is the Paterno family. In a family of ten children, Joe is one of four boys to play basketball for a Division I college. His older brother Bill starred for the University of Notre Dame from 1973-1977, captaining the Fighting Irish in his final two seasons. He is also a member of the Irish elite 1,000 point club, totalling 1,134 points in his four year career. For a younger brother the effect must have been very positive.

"Just seeing my brother playing at Madison Square Garden and some other real nice places gave me something to shoot for."

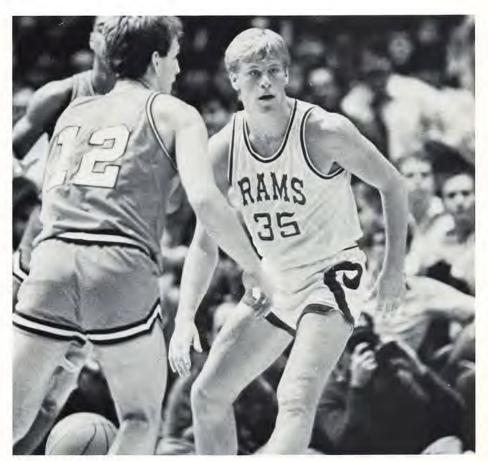
Though Bill hasn't laced them up for the Irish since 1977, the Paterno clan still has its share of basketball players. Older brother Mike is presently playing for Monmouth College and younger brother Steve is a freshman on the Marist squad. Cooperation not competition exists at home; the Paterno brothers try to help each other out, while working together.

"We're not competitive at all," claims the middle man. "Having a family like that helps out a lot. We work out with each other. So, it's more a supportive type of

attitude."

The rivalry will always be earnest. The crowd will always be boisterous at both end. And the game will always be intense. This season was no exception.

When Iona College ventured into the Rose Hill Gymnasium, January 21st, the team was coming off a lopsided 71-56 win over Marquette University. They were 8-6 and about to tip off against the 6-8 Rams of Fordham, who survived Manhattan in a last second win the previous game. To beat the Gaels the Rams would need someone to step forward and accept the load.



**JOE PATERNO** 

Though five players stepped up and hit for double figures it was forward Tom Parrotta who led the attack.

The senior co-captain took the ball first, hitting a 10 foot jumper right away, than followed it up 29 seconds later with a 12 footer from the baseline. He would hit for 12 more points as the half progressed, closing the first 20 minutes of play with a pair of 8 foot jump shots. It was clear who the floor belonged to that night as he hit 13 of 18 field goal attempts, finishing with 28 points. The magic number tied his personal best which he hit twice the season before.

Tom Parrotta struggled in his initial season at Fordham. A high school standout at Archbishop Stepinac in White Plains, the six foot five inch forward was relogated to the bench. Playing in only nine games, Parrotta scored one point per game to go along with his 1.1 rebound average. Things were discouraging on the basketball court. But more tragic was his personal life.

During that same year Tom's father died of heart failure. A football standout at Temple University, Mike Parrotta followed his son's high school career but never got the chance to see his son flourish under the college spotlight.

The following season Tom played in all 30 games and averaged 9.2 points a game. Last season he continued to emerge as a dominant factor on the team, averaging 9.8 points in 26 games.

This season he is leading the team in scoring, averaging 14.9 points a game. But stats don't mean as much to Parrotta as

winning does.

"Being my senior year I'd like to have a good season," he says. "But it's not worthwhile if you look back and say I had a good season but the team had a sub-par year. You'd like to go through the team and have everyone pull together and have a good season."

He finally achieved success, but Tom Parrotta never forgot his father. As present as his inside moves and fiery style is the black

(Continued on page 26)





# FOLEY PLAYS CHIEF ROLE FOR MARQUETTE

By Mike Hart Milwaukee Sentinel



PAT FOLEY

ou could probably call him The Stabilizer.

On a youthful Marquette squad, Pat Foley has stood out by providing leadership far beyond his 21 years of age.

Foley has been the calm in the eye of what has been a somewhat stormy Marquette season so far. He has been the anchor for a seemingly rudderless ship.

The Warriors have had more than their share of misfortunes. Mike Flory's decision to red-shirt on the team's media day left them with only three seniors.

But through it all, Foley has stood out as a leader on and off the court. His steady play has been a plus for Marquette.

When the Warriors have needed a big basket or rebound, Foley has been there to provide it. It's almost as if he goes to a phone booth to change into his basketball uniform. "Super" would not be a far-fetched adjective to describe his play.

He relishes the opportunity to provide leadership for this young lot. "It's a young team. We have seven freshmen and three seniors. Most of the team didn't play that much before," said Foley.

"It's been my job, and Pops and Tony Reeder to give leadership. I try to stay calm out there and do the best that I can."

It's been tough for anyone associated with Marquette to stay calm amid the many trials and tribulations that the team has had.

"I guess it started with Mike," said Foley. "That was a big blow for us since he is a senior.

"We didn't get off to the greatest start. Everyone was counting us out."

Perhaps Foley himself was counted out prior to the season. He carried a career 2.5 scoring average into the season. That was hardly an endorsement for the 6-5 forward.

After starting nine games as a freshman, Foley didn't see much action in the following two years. He decided to change that by working diligently during the summer. He shed some pounds and built up a fine outside shot.

"I really worked hard," he said.
"Last spring, I decided that coming back, I didn't want the same results. I wanted to show myself that I can contribute.

"Personally, I think I'm doing a nice job. But it's all about winning. We have losses, and I think I could have done better in those games."

He has done better than most people would have expected. He also has set a good example for the freshmen. After a two-hour workout at Williams Arena in Minneapolis, Foley stuck around to work on his outside shooting. The next night he scored 24 points against Minnesota.

He clearly enjoys his role as a

"Yeah, I love it," he said. "It's a great opportunity for me, and I hope I'm responding.

"I've developed quite a bit – physically and mentally. I've grown up a lot."

He's had to because of the problems that Marquette has had this season. Foley has found some good out of the situations, however.

"I think it's bringing us closer together," he said. "Through each game, we've come together more. It started with the Xavier game.

"With Pops out, I just had to pick up the slack."

He's done more than his share. He's scoring at a 13.8-point clip, which leads the team, and he ranks third in rebounding. He's always been there when the Warriors needed him.

#### ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

No.	Name	Pos.	Class	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown
3	Greg "Boo" Harvey	G	Jr.	5-11	165	St. Albans, NY
4	Michael Porter	G	Jr.	6-1	185	Alexandria, VA
5	Marcus Broadnax	G	So.	6-2	170	Walton Beach, FL
10	Terry Bross	F	Sr.	6-9	230	Somerville, NJ
11	Jayson Williams	F	So.	6-9	200	New York, NY
14	Marco Baldi	C	Jr.	6-11	245	Aosta, Italy
15	Kevin Fitzpatrick	G	Jr.	6-1	170	Jackson Heights, NY
22	Elander Lewis	G	So.	6-4	185	Albany, NY
23	Matt Brust	F	Jr.	6-5	220	Babylon, NY
31	Shelton Jones	F	Sr.	6-9	208	Amityville, NY
35	Tony Yard	F	Sr.	6-7	228	Queens Village, NY
40	Steve Shurina	G	Sr.	6-4	195	Woodside, NY
50	Sean Muto	С	Fr.	6-11	220	Mechanicsburg, PA

Head Coach: Lou Carnesecca

Assistant Coaches: Brian Mahoney, Ron Rutledge, Al Lobalbo

Nickname: Redmen

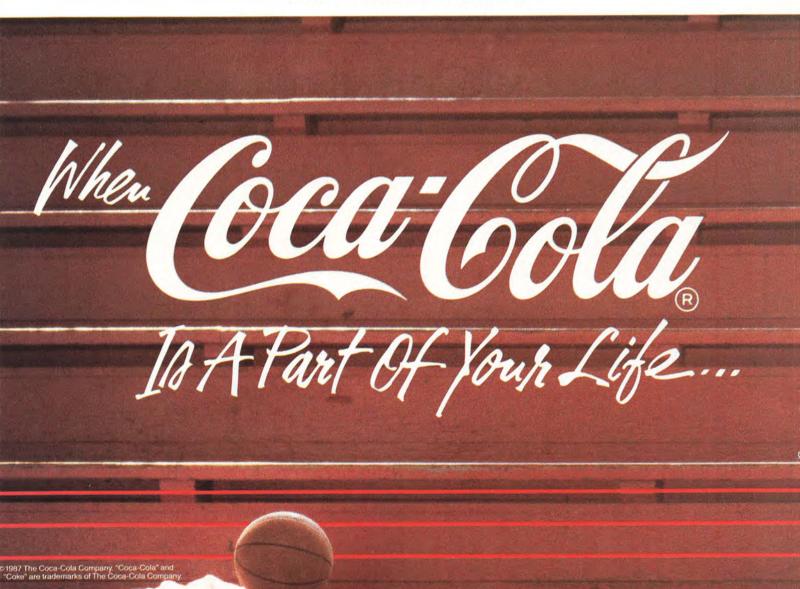




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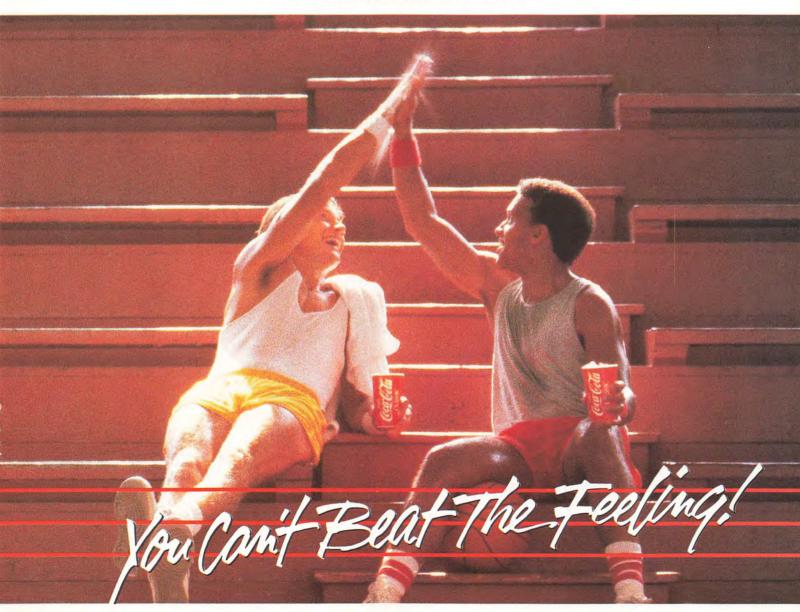
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#### **SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY**

No	.Name	Pos.	Class	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown
3	Matt Roe	G	So.	6-5	185	Manlius, NY
4	Rony Seikaly	C	Sr.	6-11	240	Athens, Greece
14	Earl Duncan	G	So.	6-3	195	Los Angeles, CA
20	Sherman Douglas	G	Jr.	6-0	170	Washington, DC
30	Derek Brower	F-C	Sr.	6-9	240	N. Babylon, NY
32	Steph. Thompson	G-F	So.	6-4	180	Los Angeles, CA
33	Herman Harried	F	Jr.	6-7	210	Baltimore, MD
41	Erik Rogers	C	So.	6-11	210	Temple City, CA
43	Keith Hughes	F	So.	6-7	210	Carteret, NJ
44	Derrick Coleman	F	So.	6-9	225	Detroit, MI

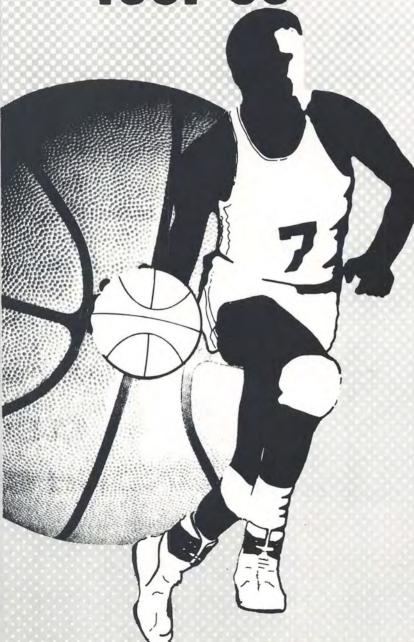
Head Coach: Jim Boeheim

Assistant Coaches: Bernie Fine, Wayne Morgan, Barry Copeland,

**Howard Triche** 

Nickname: Orangemen

## COLLEGE BASKETBALL 1987-88



#### **SCHEDULE**

#### **BIG APPLE N.I.T.**

Friday, November 27 Semifinal Doubleheader-7 pm

Saturday, November 28 Championship Doubleheader-7 pm

#### **ECAC HOLIDAY FESTIVAL**

Monday, December 28
Semifinal Doubleheader
KANSAS vs. MEMPHIS STATE-7 pm
MARIST vs. ST. JOHN'S-9pm

Wednesday, December 30 Championship Doubleheader-7 pm

#### STADIA NCAA SEASON

Tuesday, January 12 FDU vs. IONA-7 pm RUTGERS vs. ST. JOHN'S-9 pm

Monday, February 1

MARQUETTE vs. FORDHAM-7 pm

MIAMI (Fla.) vs. MARIST-9 pm

Saturday, February 6 SYRACUSE vs. ST. JOHN'S-2 pm

Saturday, February 20 WEST VIRGINIA vs. RHODE ISLAND-7 pm DEPAUL vs. ST. JOHN'S-9 pm

Wednesday, February 24 N.Y.U. vs. COLUMBIA-6:30 pm GEORGETOWN vs. ST. JOHN'S - 9 pm

#### **BIG EAST CHAMPIONSHIP**

Thursday, March 10 thru Sunday, March 13

#### NATIONAL INVITATION TOURNAMENT

Tuesday, March 29 Semifinal Doubleheader-7 pm

Wednesday, March 30 Championship Doubleheader-7pm

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### MIAMI **HURRICANES** KICKING UP **A STORM**



TITO HORFORD

he University of Miami basketball program is currently in the third - and pivotal - season of a five year building process in an undertaking that will hopefully land the Hurricanes in a post season tournament.

For those Big Apple basketball fans who need a little refresher course on the recent history of Miami Hoops, one must immediately be reminded of the fact that the UM program lay dormant for 14 years, from 1971 to 1985. The Miami program was dropped following the 1970-71 campaign at a time when the entire Miami athletic department was under dire financial strain.

In the fall of 1983, after the University's athletic fortunes had been built to the height of a football national title, the University's Board of Trustees approved athletic director Sam Jankovich's proposal to renew men's basketball on the Division I level.

Under the careful guidance of veteran head coach Bill Foster, the green Hurricanes (nine freshmen on the first squad) opened play in the 1985-86 season with a surprising 14-14 record - included in that inaugural campaign were surprising upset wins over Georgia and Florida State.

Last season, the 'Canes dipped below the 500 mark with a 15-16 record, while knocking off established programs such as Stanford and Marquette, and dropping a narrow four point decision to Final Four participant Providence.

This year, the 'Canes are pushing toward a lofty spot above the break-even point and a possible bid to a post season play-off berth. At the mid-way point of the 1987-88 campaign, Bill Foster's troops had posted a 9-6 record.

The Hurricanes' leading performer throughout the new era has been junior forward Eric Brown, a Brooklyn native who will be experiencing his first homecoming in New York after a highly successful prep campaign at Boys and Girls High School.

Brown, who earned freshman All-American honors after the '86 season, has led the 'Canes in scoring in each of those three seasons. This year he is scoring better than 18.0 points per game and recorded a career high 39 point outburst against Alabama State. His current

career figures include a scoring average of 16.6 and a rebounding figure of 6.7.

Perhaps Miami's most visible figure on the floor is sophomore center Tito Horford, who at 7'1" and 245 pounds, is the biggest living citizen from his native Dominican Republic. This year, in Horford's first full season of college play, Tito is averaging nearly ten rebounds per game to lead the team, while also checking in as the team's second leading scorer with more than 15 points per game.

Dunk specialist Dennis Burns, a native of Sicklerville, NJ, is Miami's most acrobatic player at the other forward post. After fifteen games, Burns' high-flying style of play had accounted for 22 slams, and he ranked third on the team in scoring with better than 13 points per

outing.

The back court features a pair of smaller sized scrappers who combine for a free throw shooting duo of better than 90.0%. Junior Kevin Presto (5'11") and freshman point guard Thomas Hocker (6'1") are averaging 10.1 and 7.3 points per game, while Hocker has dished out 4.7 assists per game.

## **SMITS DRAWS** RAVES FROM **NBA SCOUTS**

By Bob Bordas, Marist Sports Information Director



**RIK SMITS** 

ik Smits can still remember writing that letter to the Amateur Basketball Association of the United States (ABAUSA). The then 7-3, 17-year-old from Eindhoven, Holland, was in search of a Division I basketball scholarship at an American college or university. The correspondence met with a less than overwhelming response. In fact only a Division III school in Colorado - today Smits cannot recall the name of the institution - contacted the would-be recruit.

Soon after there was a phone conversation with a man who has built guite a reputation as a foreign recruiter, LSU coach Dale Brown. After seeing Smits play, Brown recommended the junior college route. Smits was all set to take Brown's advice when along came Marist College with Smits' dream offer, a Division I scholarship. Smits soon signed with the Red Foxes, who were about to enter only their third year of Division I play, and before you could say "Dunking Dutchman" Smits

was on his way to Poughkeepsie, New York.

When Smits arrived at Marist, he was the rawest of recruits, more project than prospect. However, in less than four years he has developed into one of the nation's best bigmen, a legitimate All-America candidate and a future NBA first-round draft choice.

"I saw Rik as a young high school player in Holland," Brown said. "I think he has improved as much as any player I've seen in my 30 years of coaching. He is a living example of what proper attitude and hard work can accomplish.

Brown is not the only one who sings the praises of Smits. NBA scouting guru Marty Blake is another big Smits fan. "I think that Rik will be a very high NBA draft choice, probably one of the first five players selected," Blake said. "He is a big-time first-rounder who I think will be a real force in the NBA in three or four years."

Speaking of the NBA, Atlanta Hawks' assistant coach Brian Hill has also taken a look at Smits. He also liked what he saw. "When I had the opportunity to see Rik play, I was very impressed with what I saw," Hill said. "He was a lot more agile than I expected. He ran the floor real well and he showed a very nice touch. There is no guestion that he is one of the top three or four returning collegiate centers. With the premium the NBA places on size, it appears that he will be a certain NBA first-

round pick."

Smits possesses many qualities that the NBA covets, including, a silky touch, tremendous work ethic and the ability to make his teammates better players. However, what the experts like most about this soft-spoken young man is that he has improved consistently with each successive season. Remember, this is a guy who has been playing the game for only six years. His best years, and there appear to be many, are still ahead of him.

Smits began his collegiate career in 1984-85, in a reserve role. By

(Continued on page 25)



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### SMITS (Continued from page 22)

Marist's eighth game he had cracked the starting lineup but at that point in his career he was far from the dominating player he is today. Rather than the Red Foxes' No. 1 option on the offensive end, Smits was somewhere near the bottom of the list. No, it was not a spectacular debut, but it was a solid one. For the year, Smits averaged 11.2 points, 5.6 rebounds and 2.6 blocks per game and was named ECAC Metro Conference Rookie of the Year. As a sophomore he was much more sure of himself and that showed in his numbers which surged to 17.7 points, 8.1 rebounds and 2.7 blocks per game. He was named the MVP of the conference postseason tournament and Honorable Mention All-East by Basketball Times and Basketball Weekly. Smits had an even greater impact as a junior. He scored at a 20.1 clip, grabbed 8.1 rebounds per game, blocked 4.0 shots per contest and led the Red Foxes to their second consecutive appearance in the NCAA Tournament. This year, despite being constantly double and sometimes even triple-teamed, Smits has been even better. He is averaging 26.5 points, 10.5 rebounds and 3.7 blocks per game, while shooting an amazing 66 percent from the field.

If there was a turning point during Smits' career it undoubtedly occurred against Georgia Tech in the opening round of the 1986 NCAA Tournament. In a head-to-head matchup with the Yellow Jackets' John Salley, who went on to become a first-round draft choice of the Detroit Pistons, Smits scored 22 points in 27 minutes. Smits eventually fouled out and the Red Foxes lost but he had proven that he belonged.

"Going into that game against Georgia Tech, I think a lot of people were wondering about how I would play against that type of competition," Smits said. "To tell you the truth, I was wondering a little bit myself. It wasn't that I didn't have confidence in myself, it was just that I hadn't played against anyone like Salley or Georgia Tech before. After that



#### DAVE MAGARITY

game, any doubts I may have had were gone. I knew I could play against the highest level of competition."

Marist's second-year head coach Dave Magarity recalls his first glimpses of Smits, which came as a member of the opposition. "I saw the first three games of his collegiate career," Magarity said. "At the time, I was an assistant coach at Iona College and I had to scout Marist against Fairfield and Villanova and then coach against them. To me, it was very obvious even at that point in his young career that his development would be rapid and that he had unlimited potential. Two things that I noticed right away were that he had a very soft shooting touch and excellent hands. His hands really stood out. He caught everything."

Which brings us back to the future, and what a bright one it appears to be for Smits. And he realizes it as well as anyone. After his outstanding junior year, it would have been easy for him to immediately make himself eligible for the NBA draft. He had heard many of the experts call him a definite lottery choice. But the communications major never really gave it much thought. It was always his intention to return to Marist for his senior year.

"It was a little tempting, but I never really did think about it," said Smits, who last summer played for the Dutch National Team in the European Championships and was named one of the six best players in Europe. "I wanted to graduate and get my

diploma. I know I can't play ball forever. One day, I will have to do something else and I want to be prepared for that day when it arrives.

"But, that doesn't mean that I'm not looking forward to playing in the NBA next year, because I am. I realize that I'm not going to step in right away and be a factor, that it could be two or three years down the line before I become a major contributor. However, I will use that time to get stronger and make myself a better player."

Magarity hates the thought of losing what has been a franchise player, and knows that players like Smits are hard to come by. "Obviously I would like to think that not only in my career as a coach but also in the years to come at Marist that he is not a once in a lifetime player," Magarity said. "However, in reality there just aren't too many 7-4 All-Americans out there. He has brought so much positive exposure to the college simply because of his presence and over the course of time, you find out that Rik is much more than just a basketball player. He is a very articulate, personable young man who has kept his priorities in perspective. He has the complete package."

To watch Rik Smits play today, it is hard to believe that just four years ago he had to resort to selling his talents through the U.S. Mail. Next year at this time, you can bet that there will be buyers aplenty in the NBA and Smits won't have to lick one stamp to make any of them notice.

#### **FORDHAM**

(Continued from page 8)

band which graces number 24 in tribute to his dad.

"He never really got to see me play in college. It's just a little reminder to myself. To look down every once in a while and see that on my arm keeps me going."

Practice was ten minutes over, and as most of the team headed off the court he stayed. Sweat flooding his body, the senior guard remained to work on his slumping scoring touch. Squaring his shoulders and setting up, Greg Pedro releases a jump shot. Assistant coach Tim O'Toole feeds the ball back outside. He shoots. Some poetically fall through the net. Some bounce away in a hard awkward fashion. With no respect for the slump and no regard for statistics, the senior guard continues to shoot the ball, hoping this one goes in, and the next one, and the one after that. But first it's this one. One shot at a time. No thought towards tomorrow's game. No thought towards the next shot. Just square. Jump.

Tomorrow's game is now today's game. With Fairfield's Alumni Hall filled to capacity, the Rams take to the floor. The crowd is a sea of red - Stag faithful - and it is loud. Not friendly confines for a struggling shooter. But with the clock reading 18:33 the senior guard squares and scores from behind the 19'9" bonus line. Twenty-nine seconds later, he takes a pass and converts it into two points. Suddenly the Rams are ahead 5-0 and the crowd doesn't seem as loud, and the slump doesn't seem as prevalent. The day ended with a two point Ram win and the senior guard finished with 11 points and 4 assists.

When the college coaches came calling they were recruiting a student who had been part of the New York Catholic High School championship basketball team. They were recruiting a first team all-city basketball player. When the smoke had cleared, Greg Pedro



#### HANK PEDRO

was heading for the Midwest. Next stop: Michigan State.

But when the Staten Island product arrived in East Lansing he was forced to sit behind the in-house backcourt tandem of Sam Vincent (Seattle Supersonics) and Scott Skiles (Indiana Pacers).

"It was kind of negative," recalls Pedro. "Because I knew I wasn't going to play. They were tough guys. In a way it was discouraging but you can only get better."

Greg enjoyed Michigan State and the excitement of the Big Ten. But following his sophomore season a change was imminent. He knew he could play and he decided to transfer instead of sitting for two years. His father Hank, a 1,000 point scorer at Wagner College, was in contact with someone

friendly with the Fordham program. As Greg says, "The right things were said, and I thought it over. The main thing was to be back in New York and hopefully make a name for myself."

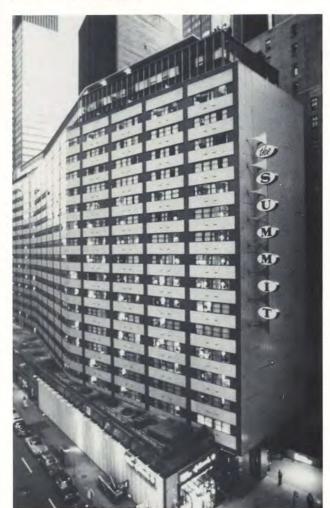
Last season the junior sharp shooter baptized the three point line with a 13.4 point per game scoring average and a 480 threepoint shooting percentage, second best in the MAAC.

This season he has struggled with his shooting touch but he doesn't fret. With plans to enter the medical profession, Pedro realizes the only medicine for a shooting slump is hard work, perseverance, and patience.

"It's like in baseball," he claims. "You can 0 for five, and come back five for five."

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Big East basketball fills the house at the Carrier Dome, home court of the Syracuse Orangemen.

#### SYRACUSE

(Continued from page 4)

Syracuse has a strong academic reputation, with internationally known programs such as the Newhouse School of Public Communications and the Maxwell School of Public Affairs. But of course, Syracuse already enjoyed that reputation in 1976, Jim Boeheim's first year, when nine New Yorkers dominated the roster.

Some other factors that are widely talked about include the formation of the BIG EAST conference and the building of the Carrier Dome, two factors that the university and its administration, particularly Director of Athletics Jake Crouthamel, can take some credit for. The third factor is the advent of ESPN, 24-hour all sports (almost) programming. The party line is that the time difference between here and the West Coast allows a California high school player to satiate himself on a steady diet of East Coast basketball. Conversely, games on the West Coast are getting underway at 11 and 12 o'clock eastern time, hardly prime time.

There are those who point to this as the reason for the decline of basketball out west. The Pac-10 is no longer an elite conference, winning barely over 50 percent of its non-league games. UCLA, which once dominated college basketball as it was never dominated before, and likely never will be again, has become nothing

more than a contender in a so-so conference. Indeed, UNLV's Final Four appearance last year was the first for a western school since UCLA in 1976. While blaming all of this on television may be the "in" thing to do, it does not necessarily tell the whole story.

Syracuse had a strong basketball program before the BIG EAST conference and before weekly television exposure became an afterthought. The Orange had been to seven straight tournaments and was a fixture in the Top 20, even before the BIG EAST's formation. As Bobby Knight pointed out last spring, done of the phenomena of the BIG EAST is that schools which really did not have a national basketball tradition, were able to compete with the likes of the ACC, SEC and Big Ten within a few years. Syracuse and St. John's, however, were merely extending proud traditions, not starting them.

While the Carrier Dome, the BIG EAST and the subsequent national telecasts of 32,000 screaming fans for an SU—Georgetown or SU—St. John's game have undoubtedly been a help in Syracuse joining the top echelon of college basketball, it is hardly accurate to say that Syracuse is where it is because of T.V. and the west is on the downslide because of it. If the west is suffering so because of lack of television exposure, explain

UNLV's consistent role in the national scene, the rise of Lute Olsen's Arizona Wildcats or the tremendous job done this season by the WAC's foursome of Wyoming, Brigham Young, New Mexico and UTEP.

Let's not forget, too, that many no, the vast majority - of schools in the east have not achieved the level of success that Syracuse has, television or no television. Does playing in front of the cameras come up as a reason for signing with Syracuse? You bet it does. But no more so than liking the coaching staff, the players, the Dome, the chance to play in the BIG EAST or Syracuse's academic programs. With all of its benefits, there is still more to making a program than being on television. Perhaps, just maybe, Coach Boeheim and the folks in Syracuse are doing a pretty good job.

For a variety of reasons, we may well have seen the last of Syracuse rosters inundated with New York state players, although Boeheim will certainly continue to pursue the Dwayne Washingtons (who he got) and King Rices (who he didn't get). The bottom line is that when you think college basketball, you now think Syracuse, right along with Kentucky, North Carolina, Indiana and the other great programs. Syracuse has gone national.

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